

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13  
/076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN:JR  
APPROVED BY AF - WESCHAUFLE  
-----120057Z 003430 /70  
O 120032Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE

1. IN VIEW MOUNTING ATTACK ON SHABA REGION FROM ANGOLA,  
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH  
SELECTED ALLIES WITH INTERESTS IN ZAIRE. EMBASSY IS  
ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT  
APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(1) IT IS OUR HOPE THAT INCURSION IS OF LIMITED SCOPE AND  
REPRESENTS NO MORE THAN RETALIATION FOR WHAT LUANDA REGIME  
CLAIMS IS CONTINUED ZAIRIAN SUPPORT FOR FNLA INSURGENTS.  
(MOBUTU CLAIMS HE HAS CUT OFF SUPPORT AND HE HAS APPARENTLY  
TRIED). THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT ATTACK  
MAY HAVE LARGER PURPOSE. SPOKESMAN FOR FORCES OCCUPYING  
KAPANGA ANNOUNCED THEY WERE KATANGAN GENDARMES COME TO  
LIBERATE THE SHABA , SAID THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF  
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LEAVING, AND CALLED ON POPULATION FOR SUPPORT. WE ALSO  
HAVE EVIDENCE THAT REGULAR ANGOLAN ARMY TROOPS (FAPLA)  
HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTACK. EVEN IF AIM IS LIMITED,  
THERE IS DANGER THAT INCURSION WILL DEVELOP ITS OWN

DESTABILIZING MOMENTUM. RENEWED THREAT OF KATANGAN  
(SHABA) SUCCESSION, AS A RESULT OF ANGOLAN AGGRESSION

WITH PRESUMABLY SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE, WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTERN INTERESTS IN AFRICA.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SOME CONTINGENCY PLANNING IS OBVIOUSLY NEEDED. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOST GOVERNMENTS EVALUATION OF SITUATION AND ITS THOUGHTS ON WHAT INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE REACTION SHOULD BE.

3. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME GENERAL REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ARE CURRENTLY WAITING FOR DETAILS AND PRIORITIES FROM THE ZAIRIANS. WE WILL PROVIDE HOST GOVERNMENTS WITH DETAILS OF REQUESTS AS SOON AS RECEIVED. WE UNDERSTAND ZAIRE HAS ALSO LEVIED REQUESTS ON HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANY DETAILS.

4. WE THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE COORDINATE OUR ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IN THE PRESENT CRISIS TO MINIMIZE DUPLICATION AND CONFUSION.

(FOR BRUSSELS: WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT OUR MILITARY MISSIONS IN KINSHASA ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT.) IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE MILITARY MISSIONS AND EMBASSIES IN KINSHASA SHOULD HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ANY MILITARY OR OTHER AID EFFORTS. FOR BROADER ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND OF POSSIBLE COUNTER MEASURES, WE WOULD EXPECT TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTACT IN OUR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE055229  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TRBUCHANAN:JR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CG, BE  
**To:** BRUSSELS BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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